

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 244360

16

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66612

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARN: PKBULLEN:GCB

APPROVED BY: NEA/ARN: ARDAY

NEA: EABINGTON

S/S-O: LMATTESON

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R 202151Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 244360

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 244360 ACTION CAIRO INFO JIDDA BEIRUT TEL AVIV
AND DAMASCUS 15 OCT 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 244360

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: PAN-ARAB FORCES IN LEBANON

REF: CAIRO 10239

1. IN OUR RESPONSE TO JIDDA'S 6892, WE SAID WE WOULD
ASSUME ISRAELIS WOULD CONSIDER INJECTION OF ARAB FORCE INTO
LEBANON AS THREAT TO THEIR POSITION AND THAT THEY COULD
VERY WELL PROCEED TO INTERVENE THEMSELVES IN SUCH A SITUA-
TION DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO THE CONTRARY. IN MAKING
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THIS REPLY, WE HAD INTERPRETED THE STATEMENT OF THE BRITISH

EMBASSY IN JIDDA AS REFERRING TO AN INTER-ARAB FORCE OF REAL MILITARY CONSEQUENCE. THIS WAS OUR ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY ISRAELI REACTION BASED ON ANALYSIS OF THEIR KNOWN ATTITUDE TOWARD LEBANESE SITUATION.

2. CAIRO REFTEL SPEAKS OF "SOME KIND OF MILITARY OBSERVER FORCE". THIS COULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM TYPE OF FORCE WE HAD IN MIND IN ASSESSING WHAT COULD TRIGGER ISRAELI INTERVENTION. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON SIZE OF FORCE, ITS MISSION, NATIONAL COMPOSITION, AND TYPES OF WEAPONS IT CARRIED. IF FORCE WERE CLEARLY FOR NON-MILITARY PURPOSES AND SENT IN CONTEXT OF CEASEFIRE MANDATE, AND IF IT WERE ACCEPTED BY PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS, INCLUDING CHRISTIANS, IN LEBANON, OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT WHILE ISRAELIS MIGHT NOT WELCOME IT, IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO BRING ISRAELI INTERVENTION IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. EMBASSY TEL AVIV MAY WISH TO COMMENT.

3. FOR CAIRO: YOU MAY CONVEY FOREGOING TO FAHMY AS OUR BEST JUDGMENT, EMPHASIZING THAT THIS IS ALL IT IS. INGERSOLL

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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